

# MUST SEE

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The Watchman, Zion National Park, Frank Jensen

### UTAH OFFICE OF TOURISM

With thousands of places to go, things to see and activities waiting for visitors to discover, it's difficult to name the state's most popular attractions. However, visitation numbers indicate that the following places are perpetual favorites and are often the springboard to other visitor adventures.

#### Utah's Top 16

★ **Temple Square** and surrounding Salt Lake City attractions include a state-of-the-art Conference Center, the world's largest genealogical library and the Joseph Smith Memorial Building that serves as a community gathering place and features a knowledgeably staffed Family History Center and large-screen theater showing films related to Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) history and religious concepts. The Museum of Church History and Art houses historic displays as well as works of modern L.D.S. artists from around the world, and two visitor centers interpret L.D.S. history and faith. [www.visitemplesquare.com](http://www.visitemplesquare.com)

★ **Zion National Park**, in southwestern Utah, features soaring monoliths, an interpretive center, hiking and the Virgin River still flowing through the geological masterpiece it carved. [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) and [www.nationalparks.org](http://www.nationalparks.org) or Zion NP: (435) 772-3256

★ **Glen Canyon National Recreation Area** in extreme south-central Utah includes world famous Lake Powell, which backs up for more than 186 miles behind the dam that formed it. Nearly 2,000 miles of serpentine shoreline with hundreds of side canyons, inlets and coves await exploration. [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) and [www.nationalparks.org](http://www.nationalparks.org) or 866-25GRAND

★ **Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area**, in the northeastern portion of the state, features 207,363 acres of land and water popular for fishing, hiking, mountain biking, wildlife watching and access to the neighboring Ashley National Forest. [www.fs.fed.us/r4/ashley](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/ashley) or 800-477-5558

★ **Bryce Canyon National Park**, situated in southwestern Utah, is a series of amphitheaters and bowls filled with massive and delicate pillars of stone eroded into bizarre shapes called hoodoos. Visitors may hike or drive to viewpoints on the canyon's rim or hike down into the bowls for a truly surreal experience. [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) and [www.nationalparks.org](http://www.nationalparks.org) or 800-444-6689

★ **Wasatch Mountain State Park**, in northern Utah's Heber Valley, has two excellent 36-hole golf courses. Its Soldier Hollow section was the venue for the biathlon and cross country events during the 2002 Olympic Winter Games. Soldier Hollow is open year-round. Winter activities include cross-country skiing, tubing and snowshoeing. [www.stateparks.utah.gov](http://www.stateparks.utah.gov) or 877-UTPARKS

★ **Arches National Park** Near Moab in the southeastern part of the state, it features hundreds of the sandstone arch spans for which the park was named, including Utah icon Delicate Arch. Combined, the park has more than 2,000 significant eroded formations. A 40-mile scenic drive provides access to hiking and stunning viewpoints. [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) / [www.nationalparks.org](http://www.nationalparks.org) / [www.discovermoab.com](http://www.discovermoab.com) / 800-635-MOAB

★ **Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument**, in south-central Utah, is divided into three areas: the canyons of the Escalante River, the Grand Staircase and the Kaiparowits Plateau. The monument is a vast and rugged region. It is intersected by National Scenic Byway 12 (which has earned the federal All American Road designation) and provides access to various recreation opportunities in the monument and vicinity. [www.blm.gov/utah](http://www.blm.gov/utah) or 800-733-5263

800-200-1160  
Int'l: 1-801-538-1900

[www.utah.travel](http://www.utah.travel)

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Salt Lake City's skyline framed by the Wasatch Mountains. Eric Schramm

Temple Square, Salt Lake City

Bryce Canyon National Park, Frank Jensen

Wasatch Mountain State Park

Delicate Arch, Arches National Park, Ric Ergenbright





This is the Place Heritage Park, Salt Lake City foothills



Bison at Antelope Island State Park



Canyonlands National Park



Cedar Breaks National Monument



Snow Canyon State Park

★ **Capitol Reef National Park** The dominant geological feature of south-central Utah is the Waterpocket Fold, a massive uplift which created the huge dome-like formations that inspired the park's name. Historic features make this park unique, from evidence of the ancient Fremont Culture to orchards planted by settlers in the mid-1800s, which are still maintained by the park service and harvested by visitors in season. [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) and [www.nationalparks.org](http://www.nationalparks.org) or 800-858-9951

★ **Cedar Breaks National Monument** is surrounded by Dixie National Forest in the southwestern area of the state. Similar to Bryce Canyon, this monument is an amphitheater on the western edge of the Markagunt Plateau filled with pillars, columns and hoodoos which are particularly vivid because they are concentrated in a small area surrounded by verdant meadows and forest. [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) and [www.nationalparks.org](http://www.nationalparks.org) or 800-354-4849

★ **This Is The Place Heritage Park** lies at the mouth of Emigration Canyon on the eastern edge of the Salt Lake Valley. This 450-acre park features the Heritage Village Living History Experience, where you will find 40 original and replica homes and businesses featuring period villagers demonstrating crafts, trades and home-making skills typical of 19th Century Utah. You will also find hands-on crafts, pioneer chore activities, school lessons and farm animals to see and experience. And don't forget the pony rides, train and horse-drawn wagons. Also featured in the park is This is the Place Monument with its sweeping panoramic view of the Salt Lake Valley. The monument was erected in 1947 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the first Mormon settlers to Utah and the West. 801-582-1847 or [www.thisistheplace.org](http://www.thisistheplace.org)

★ **Canyonlands National Park**, in southeastern Utah, is divided into distinct districts: The River, Island in the Sky, The Needles and The Maze. Each district of this vast park is unique. The River District has stretches of the Green and Colorado Rivers, both lazy and wild. The Island in the Sky is a huge mesa with paved roads and scenic overlooks into the wild canyon country below. The Needles section is named for its myriad rock spires, fins and formations. The Maze is some of the wildest and most rugged country in the United States. The area can only be accessed by hiking or mountain bike trails, on the Colorado River or via limited four-wheel-drive trails. [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) and [www.nationalparks.org](http://www.nationalparks.org) or 800-635-MOAB

★ **Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park** straddles the border of southeastern Utah and Arizona. Goulding's Trading Post and Museum recreates life in the 1920s and documents the starring roles of Monument Valley's formations in movies and television through several decades. [www.discovernavajo.com](http://www.discovernavajo.com) or 928-871-6436

★ **Dinosaur National Monument**, in northeastern Utah, shelters more than 2,000 dinosaur bones exposed in a 200-foot-long sandstone wall. The site was discovered in 1909 by paleontologist Earl Douglass. Over 350 million tons of fossils, including full skeletons and previously unknown dinosaur species, were excavated by Douglass's crew and now reside in museums all over the world. [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) and [www.nationalparks.org](http://www.nationalparks.org)

★ **Snow Canyon State Park**, outside St. George in southwestern Utah, is best known for its enjoyable hiking through acres of vibrant red Navajo sandstone capped by an overlay of black lava rock. [www.stateparks.utah.gov](http://www.stateparks.utah.gov) or 877-UTPARKS

★ **Antelope Island State Park** is the largest island in the Great Salt Lake. Accessed by a seven-mile causeway across the lake, the park offers the most stunning views available of the Wasatch Mountain range. The island is also home to free-roaming bison, bighorn sheep, deer, pronghorn antelope and many varieties of shore and wading birds. [www.stateparks.utah.gov](http://www.stateparks.utah.gov) or 877-UTPARKS



Monument Valley, Robert Riberia



Lake Powell, Frank Jensen